

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Remarks

1. The Office Action has been made issued in response to amendment filed March 27, 2009. Claims 1-11 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenneth Berner (Reg #: 37,093) on June 18, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In line 3 of claim 1, after the phrase "... following steps:" insert the phrase "a computer for performing the steps of:".

In line 2 of claim 5, after the phrase "... following steps:" insert the phrase "a computer for performing the steps of:" .

Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art teaches or fairly suggest " converting the original color image made of pixels, each pixel being represented by hue H, saturation S and value V components a color space, or by hue H, luminescence L and saturation S components in a HLS color space into an intermediate image made of pixels, each pixel being represented by components X and Y; depending solely on the H and S components of the pixel in the original color image; wherein components X and Y are functions of the H component determined by:

$$X = G_x(H) \text{ and } Y = G_y(H);$$

wherein these functions verify the following relationships:

$$G_x(0) = G_x(1) \text{ and } G_y(0) = G_y(1) ;$$

and generating a new monochromatic image from the intermediate image;

wherein the intermediate image each pixel is represented only by a component D1; D1 being a function of components X and Y of the pixel in the intermediate image

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Claims 1-11 are allowed.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANDRAE S. ALLISON whose telephone number is (571)270-1052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vikkram Bali can be reached on (571) 272-7415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2624
June 18, 2009

/Vikkram Bali/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2624